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(SNP070) Eli Dudley Jones interviewed by
Dorothy Noble Smith, transcribed by Sharon G.
Marston

Eli T. Jones

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ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM
SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK

NARRATOR: Mr. Eli T. (Dudley) Jones
INTERVIEWER: Dorothy Smith
PLACE: Jeremys Run
DATE: December 3, 1979

TRANSCRIBED BY:

Sharon G. Marston

COMPLETED DATE:

February 7, 1980

D.S.: This is Dorothy Smith interviewing Mr. Eli, also called Dudley Jones. Where did you live in the mountains? Mr. Jones?

E.J.: I lived near Rileyville..Vaughan's Summit..joining ^{Jeremiah} Jeremys Run.

D.S.: I see. Then you were in the Jeremys Run area?

E.J.: On the Jeremys Run section.

D.S.: Okey, Alright now let's talk about...how large was your family?

E.J.: It was six in our family.

D.S.: Six children?

E.J.: No four children and my mother and father, and two's dead. A sister and brother.

D.S.: Oh, uhuh. That was a small family for those days wasn't it?

E.J.: Well, it was some large families in this section.around here. One guy had fourteen kids.

D.S.: Wow. Who was that?

E.J.: Mr. Henry Presgraves. He lived above us about a half a mile. And uh, he had the largest in the county ... community.

D.S.: Fourteen children, wow.

E.J.: Fourteen.

D.S.: How..now we are going back to when you were a little boy. Okey?

E.J.:? As fer as I can go, yea.

D.S.: Okey. How many acres did your family have?

E.J.: My father had eight acres of land.

D.S.: Eighty?

E.J.: Eight.

D.S.: Uhuh. Now on this did you do farming?

E.J.: Yes mam. We farmed corn, rye, and uh.. *like that.*
beans, stuff like that..we had a garden..raised vegetables.

D.S.: Sure, uh, The corn and the rye..the corn you would take to a

miller? And have it ground?

E.J.: Yes mam..

D.S.: Where was the mill?

E.J.: In Rileyville.

D.S.: In Rileyville? Oh!

E.J.: Yes mam. Down at the old Titan Mill.

D.S.: How would you get it there? Carry it or...by horse?

E.J.: Carry it on the horse.

D.S.: On the horse. Didn't the hairs of the horse get in it?

E.J.: Hum, we might find oneonce in a while a couple...but we sifted it, see. Sifted the flour..my mother had a sifter and sifted it.

D.S.: Oh, okey. The rye, how did you take care of that?

E.J.: Ground that also.

D.S.: You took that .. you cut it down and took it to the mill to be ground?

E.J.: *RIGHT*

D.S.: What did you use the corn for? Cornmeal?

E.J.: Cornmeal, yea. And we had hogs. Couple hogs and we fed the hogs..chickens, uh a few chickens. Also we had a cow.

D.S.: Uhhuh!

E.J.: And uh, that was a big help...at that time.

D.S.: Sure. Uh, the rye was used for what?

E.J.: The rye was used for..to ground up and feed hogs..mostly, and we fed it to our chickens..^{like}mostly that.

D.S.: You didn't make any moonshine with it?

E.J.: No mam

D.S.: You didn't.

E.J.: No

D.S.: Did any of your neighbors make moonshine? Out of rye?

E.J.: Yes, uh, I had a cousin..uh..made moonshine.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Do you know how much he would get for that?

E.J.: Fifty cents a pint.

D.S.: Fifty cents a pint?

E.J.: Uhhuh.

D.S.: That was good money, wasn't it?

E.J.: Yea, at that time.

D.S.: Sure. Right. Uh, how come then didn't your family make any?

Because it was money.

E.J.: Well, I don't know, my father..he never..he helped to make,
but he never made ^{none} any of his own. He would help other people.

At one time there was three stills a running in *Jeremias* Jeremys-Run.

D.S.: Uhhuh, yea.

E.J.: Where the park is now. And different ones..and..three..and he
would help them, but he never made none hisself.

D.S.: Okey. Now the store you used, where was that?

E.J.: Uh, where we dealt and buy stuff? At one time it was over here
at Vaughan's Summit.

D.S.: Where?

E.J.: Vaughan's Summit..Over here where you crossed the railroad track.

D.S.: What's that called?

E.J.: Vaughan's Summit. V A U G H N...

D.S.: Oh, uhhuh and there was a store there?

E.J.: See a little church there when you come by?

D.S.: Uhhuh.

E.J.: Well that was a store at one time.

D.S.: Oh, yea, uhuh.

E.J.: And it was a made a church out of *it*,

D.S.: You had chickens so would you take eggs there? And trade them out for what you needed?

E.J.: That's right. For uh stuff we had to have in the household.. coffee..salt, sugar, baking powder, all that stuff..

D.S.: Keresens?

E.J.: Yea. You didn't get much for a dozen eggs then.

D.S.: No.

E.J.: I just don't remember now, but it wasn't much. Of course, stuff was cheap then.

D.S.: Sure, right. Did you take any hams to that store?

E.J.: Yes, we would once in a while. But mostly we brought them down to Rileyville...it was a bigger place, you know.

D.S.: (Chickens?) How would you get them there. By horse again?

E.J.: Sometimes we would walk. It isn't 'bout three miles.

D.S.: Is that all?

E.J.: Uhuh. We usta carry huckleberries down there.

D.S.: Uhhum.

E.J.: Yep.

D.S.: How much would you get for the huckleberries?

E.J.: Well, I've picked em as little as twenty cents a gallon. On as years went by..I think the last I picked I got \$1.75, a gallon That was the last I picked.

D.S.: Gee! Did you ever see any people, or know any people in this area that deliberately set fires in order to assure a huckleberry crop?

E.J.: Well, we had fires, but I couldn't say who set it. There was set one up here one time and burned over a large ninty acres one day about lunch time. We'd done come in out of the mountain.. there was a car up there, but we don't know who it was. And it was a building there for people to go in you know out of the rain and stuff..it burned that down. Law, years ago..I reckon I wasn't over nine or ten years old..this whole mountain burnt. Whole thing. It was terrible. I mean people fought fires day and night.

D.S.: That..now you were nine or ten years old..that would have been what year? Roughly?

E.J.: Well, that would have been in the late twenties. I'd say '28. 1928 or so...

D.S.: 1928. That was the same year that there was a bad fire over in the central section...too.

E.J.: I know there was a lot of fires set..and it burnt a lot of timber..a lot of timber.

D.S.: Was there a drought at that time?

E.J.: Pretty close. That drought was in '31 wasn't it..The bad drought. I think that was a little bit before..we had fires then too.

D.S.: Speaking of that drought, how did you all make out with your vegetables?

E.J.: Shhh, we didn't have none to tell you the truth. My father had that field right up there in corn...and I'd say it got..about two and a half feet high or so..and that was it. That winter I spent the whole winter in the hospital..Charlottesville..

D.S.: Why?

E.J.: I had operations on both legs.

D.S.: What happened?

E.J.: Uh, they called it soft bones..I got to where I couldn't walk.. almost crawl..had to crawl..just come on me like that.

D.S.: What caused that?

E.J.: They said it was because I didn't get the right kind of nursing. You know..food.. to harden the bones.

D.S.: But you had milk.

E.J.: Yea, but someway it just didn't take..

D.S.: Yea, you didn't absorb it. Right.

E.J.: I eat a lot of eggs and stuff like that. First it started with me feet, and then went on up to my knee. I've had a lot of trouble with this leg here..hip. I've had a couple bad falls. And they cut great long scares..had me in a cast for about three or four months.

D.S.: Oh, that was terrible. And you were such a child.

E.J.: Well, now I'm gonna tell you. I went a right good while before I had it done. That's where I made my mistake..see. We didn't know nothing about this University Hospital..it was state you know that paid those bills then..so we had a man come here..haul groceries in here once a week..he lived out here about four or five miles..and he was telling my daddy and mother..says why don't you get out here to see the doctor and get that boy over there in the hospital. My daddy says we don't have the money..we never be

able to pay it. He said don't have to, the state pays it. Yea. So I went up here to this doctor and

the state, *he took his pay from*
this doctor did, and he examined my leg..he said, yea, take him on..

so they took me..they done a good job..real good...the shape

I was in you see.

D.S.: Sure, yea right.

E.J.: I was seventeen then you see *that's what made it so bad, you see.*

D.S.: Oh my goodness!

E.J.: ~~Yea, that's what made it so bad..see.~~ If I woulda gone over there when I was about ten, twelve or something. I had to walk on crutches close to a year after that.

D.S.: Did your family have an apple orchard, or peach orchard or anything or pear...? Anything of that kind?

E.J.: Well, I forgot to tell you..he did own some land over in through the mountain..I'd say about three miles from here. Him and his brothers. Owned twelve acres...he owned four and they owned four a piece. And he had a peach orchard there. Yea, he had a peach orchard.

D.S.: Alright. What did you do with the peaches?

E.J.: We sold those. People come in there and bought them a dollar a bushel.

D.S.: Did you ever dry them?

E.J.: I don't remember ever drying them. We, uh, canned them.

D.S.: You had no apples?

E.J.: Oh, we had a few apples for our own...we didn't have no orchard. We had trees...most of them died out now. Called a milam apple. You've heard of them haven't you?

D.S.: Uhhuh. They're wonderful apples.

E.J.: Yea.

D.S.: Uh, did your mother dry those apples?

E.J.: Yes, we all dried..cut, sliced and dried em on the roof you know. We sold them.

D.S.: Sold the dried apples?

E.J.: Yea.

D.S.: Yea. So you had quite a number of ways of making money...or getting money or credit? At the store?

E.J.: That's right. Sure.

D.S.: Yea. Did your father .. here's one thing I've heard about the northern area. That a lot of the men worked for saw mills or orchard growers. Did your father do that?

E.J.:UH, he worked at the apple orchards in the fall,but he never worked at no sawmill.

D.S.: Uhhuh. He'd pick apples?

E.J.: Yea, Uhhuh.

D.S.: Right. But he didn't have a regular permanent job up in the mountains doing that?

E.J.: No. He worked on what you call..one time..uh..W.P.A.project. That was making roads and so forth and all you know.

D.S.: Yea. Uh, did you know of any of the other mountain people that did work for the orchard growers? Because there were good orchards up there. Big orchards.

E.J.: Not around here. Most of them did farm work.....See, around this community.

D.S.: Would they work for local farmers in the valley?

E.J.: Oh they was helping others you know that had farms..horses, and uh, bunches of them would get together and ~~trashing~~ ^{thrashing} you know.. thrashing wheat..they would help one another and butchering..they would help..all the like of that.

D.S.: Alright. Did you make applebutter?

E.J.: Yes, mam!

D.S.: And the neighbors got together then too.!

E.J.: Applebutter, yea.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Was that made during the day or night?

E.J.: Sometimes day and sometimes night. We didn't get done in
day sometimes go on til midnight.

D.S.: Did you ever have any dancing or have music while you were
doing it?

E.J.: Oh yea, we'd go to dances. And corn shucking..we'd have corn
shucking..

D.S.: Uhhum. What happened if you got a red ear? Of corn?

E.J.: I think they was suppose to give a drink or something like
that. A drink of whiskey.

D.S.: Yea, yea, uhhum. Sure. Uhp the dances were they in the home?

E.J.: Yes.

D.S.: Or in the barn?

E.J.: Sometimes in the barn.

D.S.: Uhhum. Yea. And what kind of dancing was it? Was it square
dancing or Virginia Reels or ...?

E.J.: We'd all get hands, you know, and go round and like that...

D.S.: Virginia Reel?

E.J.: Virginia Reel, I guess that's what you call it.

D.S.: So you had fiddlers and...?

E.J.: Oh yea, fine fiddlers.

D.S.: Oh great.

E.J.: It was plenty of that around here.

D.S.: Yea. Did you ever hear of any banjos being handmade?
Like groundhog hide or possum...

E.J.: Yea, I've heard of them, but I've never knowed wher done it.

D.S.: You did have them done up here?

E.J.: Yea. My father was a banjo player.

D.S.: He was?

E.J.: Yes. He had a banjo. I don't know what ever become of it but,
he could pick a banjo. Had a record made of it...him and a
couple more guys.

D.S.: Really!

E.J.: Yes. It's around..what you call it .. the old Addison ^{GRAMAP have} Phonograph..

That's right.

D.S.: Um, what tunes would they play? Like "Money Mush"

E.J.: Yea, and BrownTown Girl...Did you ever hear that?

D.S.: No. How does that go.

E.J.: BrownTown Girl, Won't you come out tonight, and dance in the
light of the moon.

D.S.: BrownTown Girl, Won't you come out tonight, come out tonight,

E.J.: come out tonight, BrownTown Girl won't you come out tonight
and dance by the lightof the moon? That's the way it went.

D.S.: Yea, uhhuh! Did youhave a tune called "Leather Britches"?

E.J.: Oh yea.

D.S.: How did that go?

E.J.: Shhh, you know I just don't know now. That was a fiddle piece
I think.

D.S.: Yea, uhhuh. Yea.

E.J.: Daddy come back and your mother sewed the stitches or something
like that. Is that the way it goes?

D.S.: I don't know. I've been dying to hear it.

E.J.: My mother sang it a lot..but I just don't know the tune of it now.

D.S.: It'll come to you..and when it does, you suddenly pop out with it. Okey?

E.J.: I tell you, there wasn't much singing in that piece. It was all you know..fiddle..

D.S.: Yea, mainly music. Right. I was just wondering how the tune itself went.

E.J.: And Nellie Gray..they played that a lot. Swanie River.

D.S.: Oh yea, um, Roughly how far apart were thehouses?

E.J.: Well..

D.S.: About like they are now?

E.J.: Yes. Couple hundred yards apart I reckon.

D.S.: Oh, that's more than a couple hundred yards.

E.J.: More than a couple hundred.. *from here ?*

D.S.: Sure..it's a quarter of a mile anyway.

E.J.:? Reckon it is. Well that's about what they are.

D.S.: So, you could really call to each other?

E.J.: Oh yea. Now there's a old house sits across the run over here..that's well on to 200 years old. You should see that. Them people lives there right now..there's a woman and a man that lives there, and uh, it's a log..part of it is a log house..and they don't have no electricity..nothing like that. They live like they did fifty years ago. Hardly ever sick,never go to the doctor...so it's more healthy..I don't know.

D.S.: Yea, right. Uh, you..did you do much fishing? Cause I know
Jeremys Run had..has good fish.

E.J.: Yes. We done a lot of fishing.

D.S.: You were kept sort of busy weren't you..working?

E.J.: Yes.

D.S.: So how would you find time to fish.

E.J.: Well, on Sunday's we would fish..On Saturday evening...we got
off on Saturday evening. You know we would catch our work up.
On a rainy day you know..maybe..we go on in the rain and fish.
They bite good you know..trout..rainbow trout, mountain trout,
all that...

D.S.: Did your mother soak those overnight?

E.J.: No. They didn't need much soaking..the trout. Now the fish
here in the store..they the ones need soaking more than *those*

D.S.: How about hunting? Did you do much hunting?

E.J.: Yea we done a lot of hunting..me and my brother..We'd go and
hunt rabbit..a lot of rabbits..You could sell them then. You
...fifteen cents..I think fifteen cents a piece is what we
would sell them for.

D.S.: Uhhum. Yea. Hunt anything else?

E.J.: Yea possum. In the later years then we got to hunting coon. You
know..*we* had coon dogs.

D.S.: Oh! you did?

E.J.: Big hound dog..^{He was a good dog}He'd catch..six..no I'm going to far..four and
five coon a night. He was a good dog. One time he got two up
one tree.

D.S.: And the one dog had to take care of both of them?

E.J.: He took care of them. He was a big dog and he knowed how to do it. They was bad too..coon..and coon is mighty strong. A strong animal.

D.S.: Yea, they can damage a dog terribly.

E.J.: But, he knew how to grab them and take care of them.

D.S.: Hum! Would you sell those then? or just eat them.

E.J.: Let's see. I think we sold the hides. You could sell the

hides, but some of the meat..we ate some of the meat, *my mother would buy it.*

And also possum..we ate possum. At that time.

D.S.: Sure. So hunting was almost like a necessity..it gave you a change of food.

E.J.: Yea. Well plenty in the mountains see and you didn't have no trouble getting to it. I mean..seems like more stuff now, broken down you know to get through and of course the park you couldn;t hunt in the park.

D.S.: Oh yea. Right. But for your meals you had your corn..cornmeal.. and you had your milk and butter andcheese..Did you have a spring?

E.J.: No, we didn't have no spring.

D.S.: Then how did you keep your milk?

E.J.: We'd keep it..we had a box out here to the run, *put it in the water, put things in it* and let it sit in there.

D.S.: Oh, that was clever. Because the water was cold.

E.J.: We made holes in the box so the water would keep running through.

D.S.: Yea, uhhuh. I guess you had to keep repairing the box? Every now and then didn't you?

E.J.: Yes, course we built it strong, I mean, uh, oak boards you know.

And then, I think it was in the fourties...we dug a well by hand. You know this little building right here..that's where it's at. We dug that by hand.

D.S.: Yea. Okey. In other words you've been living here all your life.

E.J.: That's right.

D.S.: That's wonderful. That's nice. So I don't have to ask you what the house was like, do I?

E.J.: I can show you a picture of it before it was remodeled.

D.S.: You did show me a picture of it. Remember.

E.J.: Up there.

D.S.: Yea, right. Okey now, you had two sisters and a brother?

E.J.: Yea.

D.S.: Did you ever play an practical jokes on them?

E.J.: Yes, I have. They've played them on me too.

D.S.: What were some of them? Can you remember?

E.J.: Well, it's been a long time. I can't hardly remember too much about it..but I know one time my sister had a birthday..she was the oldest ~~one~~...sister...this ain't no joke..this is more than a joke. anyway me and my brother was fooling and carrying on and we had a *plank* and someway it got in my hand around it's neck and and had the knife in the other hand and come over and cut me on the arm..right down through the bone. Oh, it scared him..he run..and my cousin lives over here..old fellow.. and my mother hollared for him to come over here something about cutting my arm and he had a chaw of tobacco and he just slapped that chaw of tobacco right on that place...that was it. It

stopped bleeding, and uh, ^I never went to no doctor. My brother never come home ^{till} to the next morning.

D.S.: Oh, the poor boy.

E.J.: Oh Lordy, it really scared him. He didn't aim to do it, you know.

D.S.: No, I know it. What, oh so many questions to ask you. Uh, your parents..would you dare .. your brother was afraid to come home. Uh, would he have gotten a spanking from your mother?

E.J.: No, he wouldn't have from my mother but he would have from my father. My mother would never..oh, she smacked us now, but my father would use the switches. I'm pretty sure he did get a whipping after he did come home. But he didn't aim to do it, see.

D.S.: No, I know he didn't.

E.J.: That was fooling..I think that was my sister..Sue..I think she was seven years old that day.

D.S.: Did you celebrate birthdays?

E.J.: Well, not too much. We just had cakes and things..didn't have too much to celebrate. And my mother..she would tell the stories and things about her young days and you know...she was good at that. She would sit down and tell ^{us} at nighttime in the winter.. you know.

D.S.: Where did your mother come from?

E.J.: Little place over here at Vaughn's Summit. That's where she was raised. ^{the maiden name was} Vaughn...That's why they called it Vaughn's Summit. So many Vaughn's lived there...you know. Yea. And Summit..I don't know ^{how} ~~where~~ they got that.

D.S.: Would you dare say to your mother or father..'I don't want to

do that'?!'

E.J.: No. I better not. Not to my father. My mother..she was soft going, easy going..my father, he..shhh. He wasn't no big man, but he sure could whip hard. Yea.

D.S.: So, you knew if your parents said it's time for you to do such and such...you didn't say 'later'.

E.J.: That's right. After while. It was now. Uh, my job in the evening was getting in wood..ready for the next morning..splitting up kindling, picking up chips..so forth and on..my older brother, he was more..he wanted to work out more you know when he got big enough..he was more able than I was. He worked for the guys down on the farm. Think he got..when he first started, I think he got fifty cents a day. And he would have to take meat, flour and things like that you know..ain't got no money. That's how it was.

D.S.: Yea. Where was the nearest school?

E.J.: Right over there on that big hill ^{where} you come over. Right up on the right from the north.

D.S.: Was that a one room school?

E.J.: One room school.

D.S.: How far..what grade did it go through?

E.J.: Seventh. Went to seventh grade.

D.S.: Did you walk there?

E.J.: Walked. Snow, rain, sleet, anything. And the teacher had around three miles to walk. Three miles.

D.S.: Boy. So you had school every day regardless of the weather?

E.J.: We ~~walked~~ ^{walked}. Bad!

D.S.: Do you recall what they taught in school?

E.J.: Well, they taught just about..oh, I mean geography, English,
'Rithmetic, Spelling all that.

D.S.: That was a good education.

E.J.: I was a slow learner..I will have to admit..I just couldn't
learn fast. But my brother, he learnt pretty good. Got a good
education.

D.S.: Yea. Were there many children in the school?

E.J.: I'd say there were around fourty some.

D.S.: That is a lot.

E.J.: Yea. It was a pretty big *group*, *you see*,
all this section in here and all over there..Vaughn's Summit.
Went there.. And ~~on~~ down..I'd say a couple miles down the road.
It was a lot of little schools, then. One room schools.

D.S.: I know there were. And they did a good education for the children.

E.J.: Yea, we had a good teacher. She was a woman teacher and she was
strict. Yea.

D.S.: How about church? Where did you go to church?

E.J.: Well, we usta have meetings over there in the schoolhouse.
But the big church was in Rileyville. We went down there when
they would hold big meetings you know.

D.S.: That was a long way to go. Did you walk that too?

E.J.: Uhhum.

D.S.: Oh boy. Did you wear shoes year round?

E.J.: Yea, well we went barefoot in the summer of course. One pair of
shoes a season. That's all we got.

D.S.: Yea. Right. You know one question I should have asked you when you

were talking about how many acres you had...where would you get this wood to cut for the fireplace.

E.J.: Well, we didn't have no fireplace..we had a stove..

D.S.: Oh, alright..for the stove?

E.J.: We had wood over in the mountain land..you know.. timber..four acres..course we owned this little place over here too..we got wood in there. But we had plenty of wood. We'd get it in the fall..work it up..and have it ready.

D.S.: Uhhum. Would you use thehorse to pull it down? Or didyou have wagon?

E.J.: Sometimes we'd drag it down by hand. Yea. But we *hauled* the wagon *from the* mountains.

D.S.: Uhhum. Yea. Now you didn't work all the time. You must have played some games. Did you play marbles?

E.J.: Oh, yea. On the weekends we had ballgames, marble games, and horseshoes, and all such as that.

D.S.: Where would you play those?

E.J.: Well, we played over here in the run some..lots of it's grown up now. And then over at the Vaughn Summit we'd pitch horse-shoes...overthere. Right there at that church. We played ball there. And up at the railroad track..little place called Kimble.. we usta go up there and play ball. We'd play against one another you know. We'd play with Kimble..see which one could win the game.

D.S.: Sure, right. Christmas. How did you celebrate Christmas?

E.J.: We had good Christmas. We didn't have much..but we had..we enjoyed it. We'd have a Christmas Tree over to the schoolhouse. And have uh, candles on it..didn't have no electric..we'd have candles, and uh round balls on it you know..we paint them

and there were presents, stockings, and few toys...didn't have too many toys. And Candy and oranges. We had ^{it} good.

D.S.: Did you visit much on Christmas?

E.J.: Yea. We'd go what you call Kris Kringling you know.

D.S.: You did the Kris Kringling?

E.J.: Yea!

D.S.: You did?

E.J.: Lord, yea. I done a lot of that.

D.S.: Did they do it all through this area?

E.J.: All through here...clean ^{on} all...oh, I'd say five miles we'd walk.

Sometimes we wouldn't get in til oh, way in the morning. Two ~~tree~~ ^{three} o'clock in the morning. Yea.

D.S.: Alright, how did you do the Kris Kringling?

E.J.: You mean how would we dress? ^{jd} Put on a dress...you know...we'd uh fix our own mask and put on..out of paperbags and things.. It was a lot of fun.

D.S.: Sure it was.

E.J.: We'd get..people would give us candy and oranges..we'd run into other people you know. Yea.

D.S.: Sure. When you got into a house did you sit quiet and hope they could guess who you were?

E.J.: Well, oh yea. Yea. Some of them would guess you, some of them couldn't. Yea. We all sat around, joked, and laughed, and...

D.S.: Did you ever dance? or play music? While you were Kris Kringling.

E.J.: Yea. Some places. They would have music. They'd take music with them.

D.S.: Yea, right. When would you start that..about a week before, or

two weeks before or when?

E.J.: The week before and the week after. ^{lasted} That two weeks.

D.S.: Two weeks of it. Oh boy.

E.J.: We had a good time.

D.S.: Great. It's a shame they don't do it now.

E.J.: Everyb ody was happy and...

D.S.: Did the adults go along?

E.J.: Yes. Yes indeed! They'd go right along with the kids. I had an uncle and aunt..they went every night. They didn't miss a night. They really loved that. We'd go to one anothers house you know and fix up.

D.S.: Oh, I think that's great.

E.J.: There'd be big bunches of them. Yes, sometimes there'd be twelve and fourteen, in a bunch. And the people would go to the houses.. they'd have cake, pies, candy, and you just get..you'd be filled up til you got back home.

D.S.: Have the tummy ache the next morning.

E.J.: Next night we'd be ready to go again.

D.S.: Sure. Now when you were doing this..the adults going along..would someone maybe offer them a drink?

E.J.: Oh yea. Yea. They'd get a little glass of whiskey.

D.S.: And I imagine when they were having the dances they would have drinks too .

E.J.: Yea.

D.S.: Sure. Same as today.

E.J. Yea. It was very cold too some nights. We'd even go in the snow. When there'd be snow on the ^{ground} ground and we'd go.

D.S.: Nothing can hold you back!Gee Whiz! Oh boy. Uh, you know you

were mentioning about your cousin putting the tobacco on your cut. Did your mother know any herbs at all; like...if you got a cold what would she give you.

E.J.: Well, she'd give me some Vicks ^{salve} and canferated oil, coal oil & sugar for sore throat. Stuff like that.

D.S.: Did she ever make sassafrass tea?

E.J.: Yea. Yea.

D.S.: What was that for?

E.J.: Well, more because they say it was healthy .. one thing .. we had a lot of that too at that time. Boil ^{the} Roots you know. It was strong. Strong drink.

D.S.: Would you have that in summer, I mean in the spring? Would they give it to you?

E.J.: Um..along in the spring. First beginning to bud out.

D.S.: How about catnip. Was that ever used?

E.J.: Yea. We used a lot of that.

D.S.: What for?

E.J.: Well that was good for your stomach.

D.S.: It was?

E.J.: Yea, it was good for a sick stomach. I know that.

D.S.: Um. Horsemint Tea?

E.J.: Um, I don't know. I don't remember that.

D.S.: If you, uh, had a burn..if you burned your self accidentally..

E.J.: Used uh..applebutter for burns.

D.S.: Really?

E.J.: Applebutter.

D.S.: Just put the applebutter on?

EmJ.: Yea, just spread it right over the burn. Put a cloth over it..

probably. Yea. That was good.

D.S.: Did it help?

E.J.: Yea. Yes indeed. Is that a new one?

D.S.: Yes, that's a new one.

E.J.: Well now, I want to tell you about an old Indian woman. We had an Indian woman that lived right there in that house one time. She wasn't no real full Indian..she..her father was..he was I'd say half or a little more. She knowed all about stuff like that. My sister's boy..he got some kind of scalp trouble..in his hair..it got scabby and all. Oh it got bad..real bad. So she comes down here and looks at it, and in the mean time my sister took him to the doctor...and he give him stuff and it didn't seem to do too much good, and this old woman comes down here and she says, uh, Mrs. Jones I'm gonna try my remedy on that boy. See if I can't help him. Usta be some kind of a thing growed around here called *Doek leaves* . Wide..and she started using that on his head, on them places you know, twice a day.

D.S.: Would she moisten them, or what?

E.J.: Yea. she would dampen them. And, uh, I'd say in a week or little more, it started to heel. So she said, I believe it's a working. She kept *just* on..she cut back then to once a day. And I'd say in a month or more it was dry *ing up* enough..Getting well. And so them *doek leaves* did the work. I think that's what they call it...*doek leaves*.

D.S.: Yes. It is.

E.J.: She was good..good..in fact she was my..what do you call it..my midwife. When I was born. Didn't have no doctor, you know. She tended to me. And I was..was what they call a seven month..

D.S.: Oh you were?

E.J.: Yea. And I didn't, uh, make no noise...I was just real weak so she come down here one morning and she said 'I tell you there's got to be something done or this kid ain't gonna live'. She said and I think I know what I'm gonna do. My mother always told me about it..I didn't know..she got me by each one of my legs there, and picked me up and started shaking. Said I just started crying just as hard as I could cry. That brought it back. I was okey.

D.S.: You needed to be shaken up.

E.J.: Yea, they just didn't know what was wrong. Nothing. She could think of things you know. She was a good old doctor..I reckon.

D.S.: She sure was.

E.J.: Well Indians was smart.

D.S.: They were. They knew how to take care..of things right. Yea.

E.J.: She'd never go to no doctor. She took stuff of her own. Her husband...she was married twice. The first husband died..then she married my great-uncle. My grandfather's brother. That would be my own uncle, wouldn't it..?

D.S.: Yea. Right. *great uncle.*

E.J.: And he, uh, lived to be..eighty four..I think it was eighty four or eighty five..and one day he ate his lunch, moved his chair back..and just like he went to sleep..that was it. Died, right there like that....she lived on a long time ^{then} and she got the pneumonia and died. She was close on to around a hundred.

D.S.: Wow, boy, yea.

E.J.: You know the old saying..old Indians never die..they just fade away.

End of sick!

D.S.: Yea, that's right. Well people living out of doors as they all did...they did live longer, didn't they?

E.J.: What was that.

D.S.: That was just *me turning the tape.*

begin 2

Alright now, let's see. The furniture you did have in this house. Was some of it homemade? Furniture?

E.J.: I would say that. We had .. what you call a four leaf table..

It had..we call them leaves you know..they went down, *both sides* and then when we got through eating, we'd put them down...so, I guess that was what you call homemade. Then we had what you call, uh thing to keep dishes in..had tin in front of the doors..old.. that was homemade too.

D.S.: Your mother, in doing the laundry..did she make her own soap?

E.J.: No. She never made that. Her mother usta make it..and we had a lady up here that made it..oh, a couple of them. But she never did make none. She'd always get some from them. We would give them the stuff to make it out of, and they would give us the soap

D.S.: I see.

D.S.: How many hogs did you say your family had?

E.J.: Hogs? My father would keep maybe two.

D.S.: Just two.

E.J.: Yea.

D.S.: So he had to buy the piglets in the spring..

E.J.: Yea.

D.S.: And the cow, when the cow wasn't giving milk, then what did you all do?

E.J.: Well, we would have to get it from other people. My uncle down here, he had a lot of cows.

D.S.: Oh,

E.J.: And so, we'd usually get it from him. He had five or six milking cows. He had a right big place.

D.S.: Oh great. Sure. Uhhuh

E.J.: He had..I think he had seven or eight ^{KIDS} ~~cats~~. He had a right big farm. Horses..

D.S.: Did you ever hear how your family came to be here? How they found this spot? How long ago?

E.J.: Well, my grandfather, he come from England..I think it was England..anyway it was over across...and he..right down there is where he lived.. *The near* place, and uh..so..anyway he owned a lot of land..he owned back..well he owned this too..this is my father's part and...

D.S.: Oh, so you do know how your family got here. From England. And that wasn't too awfully long ago was it?

E.J.: No. Uh, now my other grandfather..can't...right off hand think where he come ^{from} from. He lived over in the Vaughn's Summit you know. He owned a lot..a right big place too. All them people in those days owned right good farm. You could buy the land cheap. See. And uh, he was a steamster. He drove a team.. hauled lumber, logs, and stuff like that. And farmed too.

D.S.: Yea, now he worked for whom. Somebody up in the mountains?

E.J.: Yea, we had a sawmill up this run..years ago..sold lumber up in there.

D.S.: Okey

E.J.: And uh, *It seemed to me there* ~~see~~ was two of them..two sawmills..one was away from here somewhere..come in here and worked men..and uh, there was a lot of wagons going then, see.

D.S.: Hum, that was steep for the horses and wagons.

E.J.: Shhh..oh Lord yes. Awful!..Don't know how they stood it.

D.S.: I don't either. They must have had a break.

E.J.: Oh yea. They had two breaks on a wagon. They had to have
it.

D.S.: Yea. Sure.

E.J.: One time my uncle's son fell, and hurt himself real bad.

He'd take him with him you know..

He got a lot of hurts ~~during~~ during them times..... you know..falling.

Rough. Yea it was rough. If I could really think, like I once
could I could tell you a whole lot, but I just can't get in my
head you know..a lotta things I could tell.

D.S.: When people...Did strangers come through here very often?
when you were a little boy?

E.J.: We had a few hobos we called them hobos you know..they'd get off
the train and ^{come} towards the mountain. We've had them to stop and
want something to eat. Yea.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Did you ever worry about any stealing or anything of that
kind?

E.J.: No. Never bothered us none. Not them days.

D.S.: Uhhuh. You didn't have a lock on your door then?

E.J.: Yea. We had a lock. But we didn't worry ^{us} none about breaking in.
Course, hardly ~~all~~ all of us would leave you know. Somebody here
about all the ~~time~~ time. My mother. She wasn't nobody to go too much.
Just..she'd stay around home.

D.S.: Uhhum. Yea. But I was just thinking with this good fishing place
there must have been a lot of people tramping through your place
property fishing.

E.J.: Yea, I know. They would fish a lot but they would keep to the road. They usta go up and camp a lot up that creek. I don't know if you ever heard of DeFord's from Luray. They would go up there and stay for a couple weeks at a time. Yea. They was wealthy people. Yea real wealthy. They owned the Virginia Oak Tannery. Yea.

D.S.: Oh yea. Speaking of that, did your father ever peel bark?

E.J.: Yea. We peeled bark. Yes we did.

D.S.: How would he get that to the tannery?

E.J.: Wagon.

D.S.: Horse and wagon.

E.J.: Yea. He'd hire somebody to haul it up there. Take all day to make a load. All day.

D.S.: Yea. Would he cut railroad ties too?

E.J.: No, just bark

D.S.: Uhhuh. In the spring that was.

E.J.: Uhhuh. When the sap was up.

D.S.: Okey
Yea. Is there anything else you that you can think of?

Did you get up early in the morning?

E.J.: Yea. Pretty early. Sometimes they'd have a hard time getting us up..but..we'd want to lay..and uh, it was a very cold house you know. Hard to get warm. Oh yes..I tell ya..we sleigh ride in the winter. We'd get a big board and five or six would get on the board and go down the hill. It was fun.

D.S.: Boy. Yea.

E.J.: Way into two o'clock in the morning. You could see..the moon be shining bright and the snow a glittering you know. Yea.

D.S.: Uhhum. And you'd slide on the board

E.J.: It was pretty.

D.S.: How would you steer the board?

E.J.: Oh we'd break a place..go down the first time. We'd kinda work ourselves and ~~keep~~ straight. Big wide board. Sometimes you'd fall off and roll over..wouldn't hurt ~~us~~ ^{ourselves} the.. nobody ever got hurt. And we'd get cold..we'd go to the house. That was the one I was telling you about the guy that had fourteen kids and had a lot of simmons..we'd eat simmons and apples. Yea they had a big fireplace and boy it really ~~thow~~ thowed the heat.

D.S.: Yea. That was fun.

E.J.: Yea it was fun. We was about fourteen then..something like that.

D.S.: Yea. Uhhuh.

E.J.: Then we would come home and get in a cold bed. But we was young, and could stand it you see. We'd hunch up to one another and keep warm.

D.S.: Yea. Sure. Did you like an evening when you weren't sleigh riding when you were just sitting around here what would..would your father say play the fiddle or the guitar or whatever it was he played.

E.J.: He had a banjo.

D.S.: Banjo. Would he play the banjo? and you'd sing or..

E.J.: Yea. And we'd dance a little bit and we had a couple boys lived up here..one of them played theguitar and the other played the fiddle..and they would come down here and they would all get to playing you know.

D.^S.: Sure.

E.J.: Yea..they..it was good. They'd come down about ever night and play.

D.S.: Uhhum. That was great. Yea. Visiting was a lot more wasn't there than...?

E.J.: Yea. Oh yea..

D.S.: What..say for instance one of your neighbors..say, uh, got ill...what would you do? What would your mother or father do?

E.J.: You mean..uh, other houses?..they would go help...help them out. If they wanted anything. Cut wood. Wash their clothes. You know there was a big epidemic of flu went through here..

D.S.: Yes! 1918..

E.J.: That was during..Yea..and people got very sick. My sister died from that. Yea. She got double pneumonia. She was three years old. And you know my father over in the Vaughn's Summit.. little place you come through..I think was five or six down.. bedfast..and you know he carried..they had to drink running water, they couldn't drink no cisturn water..had to have running water, spring water..well my grandfather had a spring down here and he carried water over here to them and got into ^{the} wood and stuff like that and he never got sick. They would tell him you know..be careful, ^{they} said you'll get down and he never got sick. And my uncle had it very bad down here..he was awful sick.. had a very high fever with it, see.

D.S.: Yes. That was a terrible disease.

E.J.: Deed it was. A lot of people died with it. Was another girl died with it..lived here above us..she was going to school and

she got the pneumonia and died.

D.S.: You didn't have any doctor to come through here?

E.J.: Yes. But he had a hard way to ^{get} come in here. I mean I think he come in on a horse or something. But he had so many to tend to. But, uh, he would come.

D.S.: Did anyone do any visiting during the day?

E.J.: Well, some. Women would visit one another during the day. Men hardly ever because they were busy...too busy. Women, would come, talk and...

D.S.: Sure. I forgot to ask you..did your mother dry beans. Snap beans.

E.J.: Oh yes

D.S.: How did she dry them?

E.J.: She spread them on a piece of paper and uh put them out on a piece of paper. They was good. Dried apples. Snitz they called them.

D.S.: Okey. Yea. They're good.

E.J.: People don't do those things no more.

D.S.; No they don't.

E.J.: That's why there are so many sick people.

D.S.: Uhhum. How did you bury your cabbages?

E.J.: Myfather dug a trench in the garden..five or six feet long..and put straw over them and dirt. 'Tatoes too. All that stuff that we burried.

D.S.: Now. I can't think of anything else to ask you; and you've told me so very very much.

E.J.: Yea. I didn't know I could tell you that much.

D.S.: Well I certainly do thank you very very much and I.....

Mr. Jones did tell us after we had completed the interview that his father, Edward, had cut all the hair for the neighbors and most of the people in the surrounding mountains for ten dollars..for ten cents, excuse me..and that he also had several *lasts* so that he was able to repair shoes. He would resole a pair of shoes for seven cents. This is the conclusion of the tape.